



**TENURE THEME: OBEDIENCE TO
THE FAITH**



BIBLE STUDY MANUAL

**TENURE THEME: OBEDIENCE
TO THE FAITH**

**IBADAN VARSITY CHRISTIAN
UNION-NIFES POSTGRADUATE
FELLOWSHIP**

**UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN,
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TENURE THEME: OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH

The theme for this tenure is **“Obedience to the Faith”**. The Lord has spoken to us expressly as a house concerning His purpose for this end-time. He wants to work on us, build us up, and mold us, so that we can be fit for the Master’s use. In attempt to achieving this goal, we must be ready to drop our trophies, endure chastisement of the Father and listen attentively to the dealings of the Holy Spirit. What God has promised to do through these teachings is more rewarding than an academic certificate.

Reconciling men back to God is a great privilege for us at this time. And to embark on this spiritual project faithfully, we must *cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God* (2Cor. 7:1). The Scripture says, *“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart”* (Ps. 40:8). Every believer must know the will of the Father; therefore He is reminding us through His words, the opportunities we have through Him to express His love. He says, *“By Christ, we have received Grace and Apostleship, for Obedience to the Faith among all Nations for His Name”* (Rom. 1:5). May the Lord grant you insight into His word as you study and meditate in Jesus’ name. Amen.

ODENIRAN PAUL OLALEKAN

PRESIDENT (2014/2015)

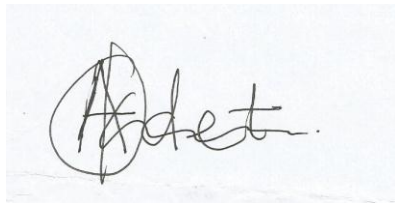
PREFACE

The theme of this tenure has been declared to be ***“OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH”*** from Romans 1:5. We believe that men must return to God through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who is ***“the Way, the Truth, and the Life”***. This Bible Study manual has therefore been prepared to point us to the blessed way, truth and life of Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit in the Holy Scripture in order to deepen our love for Jesus and to equip us for the task of bringing all nations to Christ.

In view of the limited time and space we have for Bible Study at the general fellowship level, the Cell Group Bible Study at residential cell level has been recommended ***to enhance a deeper sharing and participation in the word of God, in a “relaxed and informal” atmosphere***, yet, not without the rule of the Holy Spirit. We believe that as it is gladly received and appropriately practiced, questions which may not have been raised or attended to during the general Bible Study can receive a more personal and gracious attention. This is so much more needful in view of the instruction to ***“exhort one another daily... as we see the day approaching” (Heb. 3:13, 10:25)***. By this, we believe that the testimony of Acts 6:7 can also be a reality in our time.

We find it appropriate to have all these studies in a booklet form because it is believed that these are essential topics to which we will return again and again and we pray that it will continue to minister the quickening life and blessing of the Lord in Jesus’ name. Amen.

This manual is not however intended to provide a perfect outline of the Bible. It is rather a *broken fragment* prayerfully committed to Jesus and released with gracious fear and trembling, believing that the Lord will use it to feed His lambs and sheep with His Heavenly Pasture. We pray that each study contained in this manual will birth in us God’s pre-eminent purpose of conforming us to the image of His Son, as we behold Him in His word with *unveiled heart* and *open face* and in continual dependence on the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adetokun Jesutunde', is written on a light blue background. The signature is stylized, with the first part enclosed in a circle.

ADETOKUN JESUTUNDE

BIBLE STUDY SECRETARY (2014/2015)

STUDY 1: OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH

TEXT: Romans 1:1-6

MEMORY VERSE: “*By Whom we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name*” (Rom. 1:5)

INTRODUCTION

We are bound to give thanks to God always, Who has not left us destitute of His mercy and His truth, in that He has sent His word unto us again. Great things He has taught us and great things He has done through the word of His grace. We thus have an assurance that as He draws us closer to Him, we will also run after Him, and His grace, mercy and peace shall be multiplied upon us more abundantly in Jesus’ name.

The purpose of this study is to **introduce** us to our theme “*obedience to the faith*” through a textual study of Romans 1:5. We trust the Holy Spirit to *open our eyes, ears and hearts* to what He intends to work in us and through us at this time, and to *set us in motion*, as we behold Jesus in His Word. We pray that our hearts be set aflame in deeper love for Jesus and in truer obedience to Him, as He Himself speaks to us, in Jesus Christ’s name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. “*By Whom...*”

JESUS CHRIST is the “*Whom*” referred to here.

Romans 1:2-4 reveals the following about Jesus Christ. Briefly discuss the **practical implications** of these revelations to us FROM the following scriptures:

- ✓ Christ is the **Treasure hid in the field** of the Holy Scriptures (v.2). [See also Matt. 13:44; John 5:39; Luke 24:27,44]
 - ✓ Christ is God manifest in human form (v.3). [1Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:9-11,14,17-18]
 - ✓ Christ is the Son of God in His Divine Nature Attribute (DNA) of Holiness (v.4a). [2Cor. 5:21; 1Pet. 2:22; 1John 3:5; 2Pet. 1:3-4]
 - ✓ Christ rose from the dead (v.4b) [1Cor. 15:17-22; 1Pet. 1:3-4; Rom. 6:3-5]
- #### 2. “*...we have received grace and apostleship...*”
- a. By grace we are (i) **Saved** [Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 2:11] (ii) **Sanctified** [Tit. 2:12] (iii) **enabled for divine service** [Eph 3:8; 1Cor. 15:10]
 - b. What does “*apostleship*” refer to? [Acts 1:25; 2Cor. 5:18; Mark 3:13-15 (Luke 6:13); Acts 13:2-4]
- #### 3. “*...for obedience to the faith...*”
- a. What is **The Faith**? [Gal. 1:23; 1Cor. 15:1-8]
 - b. The Faith places a demand of obedience on every man [See Gal. 3:1]. What does it mean to be ***obedient to the faith***? [Acts 6:7; Col. 2:6-8]
 - c. How can we, by the grace of God, make men obedient to the faith? [See first, John 14:15, then Acts 26:19; (Acts 6:7a; Rom 16:25-26)]
- #### 4. “*...among all nations, for His name*”
- What is the **scope** and **object** of our apostleship, and how does this open up our minds and enlarge our hearts as we seek to live for Jesus? [Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49 (Acts 1:8)]

CONCLUDING REMARKS

God is calling us, individually and jointly, unto a greater level of **OBEDIENCE TO JESUS CHRIST**, of Whom is the Faith and by Whom is the Faith. This obedience can only flow from a ***personal, whole-hearted, self-***

surrendering, supreme, and flaming LOVE FOR JESUS, in view of Who He is to us, and what He has done for us. We clearly *see and hear Jesus* at this time saying *“If ye love Me, keep My commandments [obey Me]”* [John 14:15, & v. 23 also].

Can anyone, who claims to supremely love Jesus and seeks to obey Him lose sight of the very *heart-beat of Christ and the purpose for which God became man, suffered, died, and rose again?* The Lord has given us *“grace and apostleship”* and He is set to *equip, prepare, and perfect us for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* [Eph. 4:11].

In conclusion, God is calling us:

- ✓ *to obey the faith, out of a deep, heart-felt love for Jesus*
- ✓ *to make men of all nations obey the faith, by the grace and apostleship which we have received of Christ, starting from where you are right now*

STUDY 2:THE CHRISTIAN FAITH [1]

TEXTS: 1Cor. 15:1-8

MEMORY VERSE: *“By Whom we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name”* (Rom. 1:5)

INTRODUCTION

In our last study, we briefly looked at what *the faith* is and we noted that *the faith is the Life of Christ that we live* [Gal. 2:20] *and the Gospel of Christ that we preach* [Gal. 1:23], *being the sum of all the truth concerning Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Holy Scripture and as testified by eyewitnesses of His majesty* [1Cor. 15:1-8].

The Christian Faith is a mystery. Neither Jewish Persecution nor Pagan Hostility nor Popish Inquisition nor Papal Tyranny nor Communist Cruelty nor Islamic Terror nor Babylonish Culture could quench the living flame of this *TRIUMPHANT* faith. The faith is *“living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword”*. Amen.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

This study seeks to direct our hearts to what was in the heart of God from the beginning concerning the faith of His Son Jesus Christ. We trust the Holy Spirit to grant us an *in-road* into the heart of God as He gives us a deeper life-transforming understanding of the faith. May we be thus *quickened* to live the faith and *“preach it as love knows how”* in Jesus Christ’s name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH [1Cor. 15:3b, 4b]

THE BIBLE IS the inspired and written word of God and the Christian Faith is properly called the **Bible Faith**. From the following scriptures, BRIEFLY SEE the authenticity, infallibility and the absolute and final authority of all scripture as God’s all-time, all-essential, and all-sufficient *life-manual* applicable for all times, and upon which the Christian Faith is forever founded.[2Tim 3:15-17; 2Pet 1:20-21; Matt 5:17-18]

NOTE: THE HOLY SPIRIT is the Giver of revelation, understanding and interpretation of all scriptures [See Jn. 14:26, 16:13-14; 1Cor. 2-10-16]. If you attempt the Bible without Him, you are likely to err [See Matt. 22:29 and 2Pet. 3:15-17]. However, He guides into all truth, those who sincerely seek God [Acts 8:26-39]

WHAT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS NOT

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH is **NOT** a religion of rules and rituals. It is **NEITHER** philosophy **NOR** traditions of men. It is **NOT** even *mere* Bible Knowledge! [See Mark 7:5-9; Col. 2:8, 20-23]

THE FAITH is **THE WAY OF JESUS** which we must walk and follow; **THE TRUTH OF JESUS** that makes free, which we must learn and obey and then proclaim; and **THE LIFE OF JESUS** we must live and impart [Jn. 14:6].

Let us **first** look at *the truth of the Christian faith* in what follows:

2. THE GOSPEL TRUTH AND ITS LIFE-TRANSFORMING IMPLICATIONS

THE BIBLE FAITH consists in the complete saving work of Jesus Christ. HOW DOES THE FOLLOWING GOSPEL TRUTH TRANSFORMS anyone who encounters Jesus Christ?

- a. *Christ is born of a virgin and He is the Only Begotten Son of God* [{Luke 1:31-35}; Jn. 3:16; 1:12-13; 1Jn. 5:5]
- b. *Christ suffered for us in the flesh and shed His blood for us.* [Isa. 52:14, 53:3-5]; [Jn. 19:34,37; Heb. 9:13-14; 10:19-22;]
- Jesus...suffered without the gate.* [Heb 13:12-13] What does this signify to all who will follow Jesus?
- c. *Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures*
His kind of death is “*death of the cross*” (*Phil. 2:8*). What does this signify and how can we partake of the blessedness of this provision? [Gal. 3:13-14; Rom. 6:1-3, 6-8]
- d. *Christ was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures* [Rom. 6:4-5,13; Col. 3:1-4]
- e. *Christ ascended into heaven and He is at the right hand of God, and ever lives to make intercession for us.* [Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24]
- f. *Christ fulfilled His promise in sending the Holy Ghost to those who believe.* [Jn. 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; Eph. 1:13-14;]
- g. *Christ is coming back again and He shall reign eternally.* [Heb. 9:28; 1Thess. 1:9-10; 1Jn.3:1-3]

| |
|-------------------|
| CONCLUSION |
|-------------------|

The foundation of the Christian Faith is laid on *the truth that Jesus came, suffered, died, was buried, and was raised again* to give **eternal life** to those who believe in Him and obey the truth. Through this Jesus, we enter into a new and personal life-transforming relationship with God.

How truly have you been saved and transformed by this truth? Have others been saved and transformed through your obedience to this truth and your proclamation of the same?

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” [Jn. 8:32]. Amen.

STUDY 3: THE CHRISTIAN FAITH [2]

TEXTS: John. 14:6

MEMORY VERSE: “*By Whom we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His name*” (Rom. 1:5)

| |
|---------------------|
| INTRODUCTION |
|---------------------|

In our last study, we looked at *the faith* as *the truth of Jesus*, which is able to save and totally transform those who **believe** and **obey**. This **truth** is “*the present truth*” [2Pet. 1:12]. It does not change with time or dispensation. “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, to day, and for ever.*” [Heb. 13:8]. Amen.

We want to continue in this study as the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see *the Christian Faith* as *the way and the life of Jesus Christ*. By the help of the Holy Ghost, we also want to fix our eyes on the heart of Jesus and understand His mind concerning the practice of the Bible Faith in different aspects and situations of our everyday life.

Our hearts shall be directed to that “*old paths, where the good way is*”, which Jesus Himself has *pioneered and perfected* for us, and *we shall walk therein, and find rest for our souls*, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. THE WAY OF FAITH

What practical *insights* does each of these descriptions give us concerning the way of Jesus that leads to life and eternal rest and how can we *walk therein*?

- a. *...strait gate... narrow way...* [Matt. 7:13-14 {Luke 13:23-24}] **Jesus says** “*...many will seek to enter in, and shall not be able*” and “*...few there be that find it.*” What is the Holy Spirit **emphasizing to you** by this solemn truth from **Jesus**?
- b. *...old paths...good way...* [Jer. 6:16]
- c. *...highway...the way of holiness...* [Isa. 35:8-9; {Heb 12:14}]
- d. *...new and living way...* [Heb. 10:19-20]

2. THE LIFE OF FAITH

- a. The faith is a life of loving devotion and obedience to Jesus, His word and His will [See Deut. 6:4-8; Ps. 40:8]
- b. The life of faith is that of self-crucifixion and following Jesus in a costly discipleship. [See Gal. 2:20; Luke 9:23, {14:25-33}].

3. THE PRACTICE OF THE BIBLE FAITH

Looking at Jesus in His Word, how must we practice the way, the truth and the life of Jesus in the following areas/circumstances of our everyday life?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| i. Home | vii. Discipleship relationship [...] |
| ii. Ministry | viii. Getting a job/scholarship [...] |
| iii. Christian assembly[ing] | ix. Government [...] |
| iv. Place of work/study [...] | x. Disagreement among brethren [...] |
| v. Concerning money/finance [...] | xi. Relating with unbelievers [...] |
| vi. Marital relationship [...] | |

GENERAL SCRIPTURAL GUIDES AND REFERENCES FOR STUDY POINT 3i-iii

- i. Eph. 5:21-25,28-29,**31**-33; Eph. 6:1-4 {Col. 3:18-21}; {Luke 2:40-52} etc.
- ii. Ezek. 44:10-18; 2Cor. 4:**1-3**,7; {6:3-10}; 2Cor. 12:15; Acts 20:19{Eph 4:1-3}; Acts 13:**2** etc.
- iii. Eph. 5:23; {Matt. 23:8-12}; 1Cor. 12:27; Heb. 10:24-**25**; Matt. 18:20; Acts 2:42,46-47 etc.

NOTE: Please pay a careful and personal attention to all that the Holy Spirit is teaching you.

“Let us learn by heart the lessons we are learning and go in their wisdom all our days.”

STUDY 4: THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH [1]

TEXTS: Rom 2:13; James 1:22

MEMORY VERSE: “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (Jn. 13:17)

INTRODUCTION

We thank God for the previous study and how God enlightened us on *the Faith* with two broad study points (**the way of Faith** and **the life of Faith**). Seeing how much is embedded in the study point Three (3) - The practice of *the Faith*, of our previous topic, we have deemed fit to divide it into two separate studies; so as to get maximum benefit from it.

In today’s study, we shall be considering the practice of *the Faith* under five points/areas of life. We trust God to open us up to His mind concerning this topic, that we may demonstrate *the Faith* in every area of our human endeavor. Be blessed.

STUDY POINTS

NOTE: The scriptural references in {} are primarily for further private studies, however, they may be referred to in the classes.

1. HOME

What is *the purpose* of the Christian Home and how should the Constituents work together to achieve this? Briefly discuss this with respect to contemporary issues facing Christian homes today. {Eph 5:21-6:4}

- Father/Husband ---- Eph6:4(Gen. 18:19; Prov. 22:6); 1Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:25(Col. 3:19)
- Mother/Wife. 1Pet. 3: 1-5(Eph. 5:22); {Prov. 31:10-18, Prov. 21:19}; {1Tim 2:11-15};
- Children Eph6:1-2, Col 3:20

2. MINISTRY

- Ministry unto the LORD and then unto men {Ezek. 44:10-18}
- Love, perseverance, consecration, lowliness of mind, faithfulness... 2Cor. 12:15; 2Cor. 4:1-3,7; {2Cor. 6:3-10; Acts 20:19(Eph 4:1-3); Acts 13:2}

3. CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

- Christ the Head and the Pattern for Christian living/assemblies Col 1:18; Rom 8:29

- *Not forsaking the assembling...* Heb10:24-25; Matt. 18:20; {Acts 2:42,46-47; 1Pet.2:17}.
- *...all ye are brethren* {Matt. 23:8-12}; 1Cor. 12:27.
- Submitting to elders and to one another Heb. 13:17 {1Pet.5:5}
Long for fellowship with others (Psalm 122:1)
and have a loving and burning desire to serve others {1Pet 4:10, Gal 5:13-14 Mk 10:45; Phil: 2:2-3}

4. WORKPLACE {Eph 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-4:1}

- Serve and obey heartily, *as unto the Lord*. Col 3:22-24.
- Faithfulness- Luke 16:10-11
- Diligence in service 2Thes 3:10-12; Eccl 9:10
- Setting standard Rom 8:17,29; Eph 4:13; 1Pet 2:21

5. DISAGREEMENT AMONG BRETHREN (Acts 15:36-39)

- The Christian faith: Different opinion on issues 2Tim 2:24

■ Doctrine Titus 1:9, 2Tim 4:2-4, 1Tim 6:3-5,
2Pet1:20-21

■ Leadership tussle
■ Tribalism Eph 2:14-18, 3:6, Gal 3:28-29

CONCLUSION

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (Jn. 13:17)

STUDY 5: THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH [2]

TEXTS: Rom 2:13; James 1:22

MEMORY VERSE: *“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (Jn. 13:17)*

INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at the practice of the faith in five (5) different areas of human endeavor.

Today, we shall be seeing the same under five more areas.

We trust God to open us up to His mind concerning practicing The Faith in every area of our human endeavor. Be blessed.

STUDY POINTS

1. MONEY/FINANCE

----- God or money: Matt6:24

----- To what extent should we endeavour to get money? 1Tim.6:5-10; Prov. 23:4-5, 28:20

----- Means it is gotten and right perspective Prov. 10:22; Matt. 6:33; Lk3:14, Lev19:11

----- Money/riches are also a **trust** (Why am I blessed?): 1Tim.6:17-19; Eph. 4:28

----- Should I borrow or simply trust God to meet my needs in all situations?

----- Biblical perspectives to raising offering/fund: Ex. 25:2; 35:21; 2Cor. 9:7-11; Acts 4:32-35

----- Other matters: saving, giving/lending, tithing etc

2. MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

----- Blessedness of singleness: 1Tim4:12, 1Cor 7:32&35

----- Can a Christian be fulfilled without marriage? [Gen. 2:18; Matt. 19:10-12; 1Cor. 7]

----- **Why** do **you** want to marry? (Purpose of marital relationship)

----- Entry: God's will and Man's choice

----- Christian conduct in marital relationship

----- Christ-like love and submission Eph 5:22-25

3. DISCIPLESHIP RELATIONSHIP

----- What does discipleship relationship mean to you? [Christ is the “Discipler”; all are disciples under the care of more mature disciples]

----- **How should it be done?** 1Cor. 11:1; 2Cor. 1:24, 11:2; 1Pet 5:2-5

----- Discuss your practical experiences in discipleship relationship. How has it built you up or otherwise?

----- Some examples:

Naomi & Ruth

Moses and Joshua

Paul & Timothy [partners in ministry]

4. GOVERNMENT

---- Prayer 1Tim 2:2

---- Obedience to authority 1Pet. 2:13-16; Rom. 13:1-7

----- Do we mix with them?

----- Unequally yoked 2Cor 6:14

----- Following peace Heb 12:14, Rom 12:18

----- Conduct 1Pet2:12, Matt5:16

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH UNBELIEVERS

CONCLUSION

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (Jn. 13:17)

STUDY 6: PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP [1]

TEXTS: Matt. 4:18-21; 11:28-30; Mk. 3:13-15

MEMORY VERSE: *“Then said Jesus to the Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in my words then are ye my disciples indeed” (John 8: 31)*

INTRODUCTION

We thank God for the previous studies and how God enlightened us on the practice of *the Faith*. In this study, we shall be considering practical discipleship with Jesus and then with godly men, who are mature disciples.

We trust God to open our hearts to the path of true discipleship in Jesus’ name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. Discipleship *with* Jesus

(a) What does it mean?

- An upward call unto Jesus. Mark 3:13-15
- Espousal to Jesus in an everlasting love relationship. 2Cor. 11:2; Mk. 12:30
- Learning and following Jesus in daily life. Matt 11:28-30; 4:18-21
- A making and training process in daily experience (Matt. 4:19; Gal. 4:1-2)

(b) Purpose of discipleship with Jesus:

- To be conformed to the image of Jesus. Rom. 8:28-29
- To find rest for your soul (Matt 11:28-30; Heb. 4:10-11)
- To be equipped to serve Jesus (Mk. 3:13-15)

2. Who is a disciple of Jesus Christ?

- Born again (*believe, repent, and be baptized into Christ*). {Jn. 1:12; Mk. 1:15,16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:27}
- Continues in the words of Jesus. Jn. 8:31; 2:23-25; {Acts 2:41-42}
- Yoked with Jesus. Matt. 11:29-30
- Abandoned to Christ. Luke 5:11,28

3. Commitment of Jesus to His Disciples

- He loved them and laid down His life for them. Jn. 13:1; 10:11,15; Gal 2:20b

- *...He opened His mouth, and taught them* (Matt. 5:1-2). {Mk. 4:34; Jn. 17:8}
- *I pray for them...* (Jn. 17:9). Luke 22:31-32
- *...I am with you alway...* (Matt. 28:20). He is very present (Ps. 46:1), ever near (Mk. 6:50), always there to comfort, to help and to guide (Jn. 14:1,16-18,26).

CONCLUSION

Have you been espoused to Jesus, in an eternal love bond, to learn of Him and to follow Him all the way?

The call to discipleship with Jesus is an upward, heavenly, holy and high call unto HIMSELF (Mark 3:13). It is the way of becoming like Jesus. It is costly... but He gives grace.

STUDY 7: PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP [2]

TEXTS: Matt. 16: 24-26; Luke 14:26-33

MEMORY VERSE: *“And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”* (Luke 9:23)

INTRODUCTION

In no uncertain terms, Jesus declares the condition for discipleship with Him to all who will follow Him.

In this study we pray that the LORD will bring this truth to light in our hearts that we may truly follow the LORD each day of our life. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. Jesus calls us to an *unrivalled* attachment ***unto Himself***. In the context of Jesus’ terms of following Him in Luke 14:25-33, discuss how the natural attachments to the following can threaten and hinder your supreme love for Jesus:

- (i) ***Relatives and loved ones***. [See Luke 9:59-62; Matt. 10:37]
- (ii) ***Your own life*** (interests, comforts, welfare, ambitions, etc.) [See Matt. 6:25; 16:25]
- (iii) ***Your possessions (all that you have)*** [See Matt. 19:16-24]

2. To ***“deny yourself”*** is to say **“NO”** to yourself and to ***refuse to please yourself***, in order to say **“YES”** to Jesus and to please Him.

Discuss some scriptural and practical ways the LORD requires us to deny ourselves for His sake?

3. ***The cross***, in ancient Roman Empire is an *instrument of crucifixion*, the death of which was considered most ignoble.

How does the following help us to understand what the cross signifies in daily experience and what taking it up accomplishes in our daily living?

- (i) ***Sentence of death*** [2Cor. 1:9; Col 3:3]
- (ii) ***Bearing the dying of Jesus*** [2Cor. 4:8-11, Gal. 2:20]
- (iii) ***Branded for Jesus*** [Gal 6:14,17]

4. **Following Jesus** consists in

(i) **Following His Steps** (His lifestyle, pattern and examples) [1Pet. 2:21]. Give some examples of

Jesus we are to follow

(ii) **Obedience to Him.** [John 15:14, John 8:31]

CONCLUSION

Am I *cumbered* with the thoughts of *my own life* and *my own family*? Am I living each day to *satisfy* myself? Does the world have a *grip* over me? What do I *possess*, the love of which has turned my back against the way of the cross? *Lord give me light that I might see.*

May we receive *grace* each day to deny ourselves and to bear our cross, and follow Jesus in that *Calvary Road that leads to the land of the Heavenly Rest*, in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY 8: EXEMPLARY LIFE OF OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH [1]

TEXT: Heb 11:1-40

MEMORY VERSE: “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went” (Heb 11:8)

INTRODUCTION

“*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*” (Rom. 15:4)

In this study we trust God to take us through the life of **Abraham** and help us to *learn and understand* how to live this life of faith. May we be blessed as we study in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. THE CALL OF ABRAHAM [v.8]

By faith, and in obedience to the call of God, Abraham “went out not knowing whither he went”

- God's call requires us to continually “**go out**” of our self-reliance. Mention and discuss some other things from which we must **go out** [Gen. 12:1]
- What practical lessons can we learn concerning God's guidance on various issues of life? [See also Prov. 3:5-6; Job 23:10; Isa. 42:16; Jer. 10:23]

2. SOJOURNING IN THE LAND OF PROMISE [vv. 9-10, 13-16].

From the lifestyle of Abraham as a sojourner in a strange country, discuss the practical significance of the following to our life's journey:

- Building an altar unto the LORD [Gen. 12:7-8]
- Dwelling in tents
- Desiring a better country

3. INHERITING THE PROMISE [Rom 4:16-22]

Mention some of the promises of God we have in Christ Jesus

From the example of Abraham, discuss the following as ways to also obtain the promises of God for your life:

- Become *“as good as dead”* before God. [Heb. 11:12; v. 19]
- Believe *God, Who gives life to the dead* (v. 17; 2Cor. 1:9)
- *Judge God faithful* (Heb. 11:11)
- *Stagger not at the promise... giving glory to God...* (vv. 20-22)
- Faith and *patient endurance* (Heb. 6:12,15; 10:36)

CONCLUSION

We have seen a life of faith exemplified in Abraham, illustrating to us that to believe in God is to *trust and obey* Him.

All the promises of God in Christ Jesus are assured for us, if our attitude of life will also be that of continual *“going out”* of *everything* between us and God.

STUDY 9: EXEMPLARY LIFE OF OBEDIENCE TO THE FAITH [2]

TEXT: Heb 11:8-19; Gen. 12:10-20

MEMORY VERSE: *“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out not knowing whither he went”* (Heb 11:8)

INTRODUCTION

Our attention is now drawn to Abraham’s experience of famine in the land of promise and how he responded. We also want to glean helps from the Lord as we learn practical lessons from the married/family life of Abraham and Sarah May we be blessed in Jesus’ name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

4. FAMINE IN THE LAND OF PROMISE

- a) Abram experienced famine in the land of promise. What are the various ways a believer can also experience *“famine”* even in the *“land of promise”*?
- b) In those days, the natural response to famine was to *go down* into Egypt, because Egypt hardly experienced famine. Abram did *likewise*.

Looking deeply into the experience of Abram in Gen. 12:10-20, *discuss the practical implications of going down into Egypt in response to life's "famine"*

- Abram **"went down"**. {No altar} [v.10]
- Sought to save his life [vv.11-13]. Remember Matt. 16:25.
- Presented Sarai as his sister and not as his wife. **How do you see this?**
- Exchanged **"Sarai"** for the good treatment of Pharaoh [v.14-16]
- Went up out of Egypt with *"the maidservant"*

How should we therefore respond to life's famine?

5. FAMILY LIFE OF ABRAHAM

a) Discuss at least five practical lessons to learn from Abraham and Sarah as **"heirs together of the grace of life"** [See also 1Pet. 3:5-7]

b) From the following scriptures, how should we also raise godly seed, who shall be **"heirs with [us] of the same promise"** (Heb. 11:9)?

- **Offer up** your child(ren) unto the Lord [Gen. 22:9 (Heb. 11:17); 1Sam. 1:11, 22, 27-28]
- **"...teach them diligently..."** [Deut 6:6-7; Eph. 6:4; Prov. 22:6; Gen. 18:19]

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| CONCLUSION |
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The journey of faith is not without trials and hard times. The Lord who has called knows about the "famine", hold on to Him and you will find that the *pastures shall be green again and the waters still again*, in restoration of your soul. Amen.

The Lord is seeking a godly seed (Mal. 2:15). Will He find you faithful to raise some?

STUDY 10: UNDERSTANDING THE WILL OF GOD [1]

TEXTS: Ephesians 1:11

MEMORY VERSE: *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* (Ephesians 5:17)

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| INTRODUCTION |
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According to the Bible, "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Luke 12:15). Therefore, the true measure of a man's success is not his social status or bank account, or

his influence and fame. It is simply in doing God's will. We cannot talk of "obedience to the faith" if we do not seek to renounce our will and be committed to doing God's will in all our life (Acts 9:3-6). We trust God, in this lesson, to give us a clear understanding of what His will is, as revealed in the Bible; that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we may live out His will on a daily basis.

STUDY POINTS

1. God's will and Man's will.

Discover from the following scriptures that God has a WILL and man also does:

Eph. 1:11; 5:17; Matt 6:10; 7:21; James 1:18; James 4:13-15; Matt 26:39,42; 1John 2:17; Mark 3:35.

2. What is God's will for everyone?

- That all be saved: Matt 18:14; 2Peter 3:9
- That all be sanctified: John 17:17; 1Thess. 4:3; **Heb 10:9-12**
- **That we conform to the image of His Son:** Rom. 8:28-29; Eph 4:13-15
- **Discover, also, from the following scriptures, God's Will for us as believers:** 1Thess. 5:18; Matt 6:33,34; 1Peter 4:12-16; 1Peter 3:15-18; 1Peter 2:13-15.

3. What understanding should we have concerning God's Will?

- It is founded on the word of God: John 17:17; Eph 5:26; Psalms 119:9-11
- It is revealed by the Holy Spirit: Deut. 29:29; Galatians 5:5,16; John 16:13; 1Corinthians 2:9-10. Rom. 8: 26, 27.
- God's Will for us is the best: Isaiah 55:8-9; Jer. 29:11; Deut 30:15,16,19.

CONCLUSION

The WILL of God is ultimately the same for every person on earth- to be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God is infinitely more interested in making you to be in conformity with this WILL before directing you in the specifics of life.

STUDY 11: DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD

TEXTS: Ephesians 1:11

MEMORY VERSE: *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:17)*

INTRODUCTION

In our last study, the Lord gave us an understanding of what His will is: who He wants us to **be** and what He wants us to **do**. Through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the will of God is already clearly revealed in Scriptures both in precepts and principles, in most areas about which we seek the will of God.

We are now trusting God in this study to give us light on how to discern and ascertain the will and the mind of God in aspects of our lives about which we require specific guidance from the Lord. May we be greatly helped as we study, in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. From the following scriptures (and with practical examples), briefly discuss the assurance of God's commitment to lead and guide us into His will: Ps. 23:1-3; 32:8; Isa 42:16; Jn. 16:13
2. Does the state of our heart affect **what** we receive (or perceive) and **how** we interpret things?

What then should be the right state of heart in order to correctly discern the will of God on various matters? [Ezek. 14:3-5, Luke 22:42]; [Jn. 14:1,27, Phil. 4:6-7, Ps. 37:7]; [Ps. 24:3-4]

3. With biblical and practical insights, highlight and discuss how we can discern and ascertain the will of God in both small and great matters of life. See Prov. 3:5-6; Rom. 12:1-2; Heb. 8:10; Col. 3:16; 1Cor. 2:9-16; Heb. 5:14; 1Thess. 5:21; Phil. 4:8.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. It is God's perfect will that we know His will. Yield yourself to Him and believe that He will guide you as He has promised.
2. Seek, by the grace of God, to bring your heart into such a state that it is not bent on any will of its **own** in regard to a given matter. Then, let not your heart be troubled or anxious, but let it be at rest in God.
3. It is not just guidance you need, but a Faithful Guide. Therefore, develop an intimate relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Soak your heart and mind in the word of God and prayer. The Holy Spirit usually speaks to us from the written law of the word of God in our hearts and minds.
4. As you walk with the Lord in obedience to His revealed will, your senses become sanctified and thus can be exercised to discern what is good and what is evil.
5. The Lord expects us to prove and ascertain by our renewed mind that His will is good, acceptable and perfect. When thus proved, we are to hold it fast.

STUDY 12: THE END TIME AND THE IMMINENT COMING OF CHRIST

TEXTS: Matt. 24:1-51

MEMORY VERSE: *"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." (2Thess 3:5)*

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks to *blow the trumpet in Zion*: to *revive* those who are at ease in Zion, to awake the sleeping and the slumbering and to *direct our hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ*. May we be revived as we study, in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. From our text, find out and discuss some of the signs of the end time, *which are now a present reality in our own day*. [vv. 4-5,11,24]; [vv. 6-7]; [v. 9]; [v. 12]; [v. 14]; [v. 15]. See also 1Tim 4:1-3; 1Thess. 5:3{Dan. 8:25}; Ps. 74:3-4.
2. The coming of the Lord is likened to the days of Noah and of Lot [Luke 17:26-36]. Discuss the insights and warning that Jesus is giving us from these illustrations. [1Pet. 3:20-21; 2Pet. 2:5-8; Luke 13:23-24]; 2Tim. 2:4; 1Cor. 7:29-31
3. How then must we prepare for the coming of the Lord? [Matt. 24:42,44; 25:13; Luke 21:34-36; 1Pet. 4:7]; [Matt. 24:45-46; Luke 19:13]; [Heb. 3:13; 10:25]; [Heb. 9:28; Tit. 2:13; 2Pet. 3:11-14].

CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. This is the time of *subtle and widespread* deception. Therefore, take heed unto yourself and beware of false Christs and false prophets who claim to be *specially anointed*, so that you will not be deceived by their teachings, signs and lying wonders.
2. Do not be *entangled or encumbered* with the affairs of this life and let not your heart be *overcharged* with surfeiting, drunkenness and the cares of this life, so that the day will not come upon you unawares.
3. In view of the imminent coming of Christ, watch and pray, that you may be accounted worthy to escape the great tribulation and to stand before the Son of man.
4. Be a good, wise and faithful steward of the manifold grace of God. Be faithfully *occupied* with what Jesus has committed into your hands until He comes.
5. Exhort one another *daily*, while it is called "To day" *and so much more, as you see the day approaching*.
6. *Patiently wait and look for* the blessed hope, and the appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, because "...unto them that look for him shall he appear again the second time *without sin unto salvation*" [Heb. 9:28].
7. He that endures unto the end shall be saved. Amen.

STUDY 13: FELLOWSHIP OF SAINTS

TEXTS: 1Jn. 1:1-7; Ps. 133:1-3; Acts 2:41-47

MEMORY VERSE: “*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*” [1 John 1:7]

INTRODUCTION

The word *fellowship* is derived from the Greek word *koinonia* which means *having in common* and it involves *sharing and participation*. Children of God have fellowship because they have a common faith (Tit 1:4), common salvation (Jude 3), common holy calling (1Cor. 1:9; 2Tim. 1:9), one Spirit, one body, one hope of calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all (1Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-6), and one common enemy (1Peter 5:8).

In this study we trust the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see what fellowship really is, in obedience to the faith so that we may truly enjoy its benefits as God ordained it. Amen

STUDY POINTS

1. What understanding does 1Jn. 1:3-7 give us about true fellowship with God? [See also Heb. 12:22-24; 1Cor 1:9; Eph. 5:8-10]
2. In what ways do believers fellowship with God? Luke 6:12; 2Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:10
3. From the following scriptures, write out and discuss what fellowship of believers entails as practiced by the Early Church [Acts 2:41-47; Acts 1:14; Acts 4:32-35]. How can we also follow their examples in our days?
4. Discuss the benefits of fellowshiping together from the following scriptures. [1Jn. 1:7; {Prov. 27:17; 1Sam. 23:16}; Gal. 6:1-2; James 5:16; {Mal 3:16; 1Thess. 5:11; Heb 3:13, 10:25}; Eph 4:11-14, Ps 133:1-3]
5. Iniquity breaks fellowship with God [See Ps. 94:20, 66:18; 2Cor. 6:14]. Divisions (factions and denominational spirit) and contentions are major hindrances to fellowship among believers [See 1Cor. 1:10-13]. Mention some other hindrances [Rom. 14:1-4; 3Jn. 9-10; Heb. 10:25]

CONCLUSION

True fellowship with other believers only exists as we maintain our fellowship with the Father and with His Son through the Holy Spirit. Since fellowship with God comes through Christ, in obedience to the gospel, it continues only as we continue in obedience to the truth of the gospel. Thus, there can be no true fellowship with those who do not abide in the doctrine of Christ (2John 9-11; Gal. 2:4-5).

Are you walking in the light? Are you in fellowship with God? Are you trusting in Christ? Are we in fellowship with one another? Do you see others as vital parts of the Body of Christ, EACH ONE OF US, equally important to seeing the work of the Lord done here? **Christian** fellowship is **more than** attending “fellowship or Church”; it is being *united with Christ* in worshipping, loving, serving, caring, and sharing, **for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore**. Amen.

STUDY 14: THE BEATITUDES

TEXTS: Matt. 5: 1-12, Luke 6: 20-26

MEMORY VERSE: *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye my disciples. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
[John 8: 31-32]

INTRODUCTION

Through mercy, some of God’s blessings may be passively received by both Christians and non-Christians (Matt. 5:45). But when it comes to issues of the kingdom, the Christian must, *through grace*, actively *become* in order to possess God’s blessings. Unlike mounts Gerizim and Ebal, on which blessings and curses of the law were expressed with same magnitude (Deut. 27:12), here, the curses are only implied, while the blessings are foregrounded, to invite us to Christ. But beyond this, we treat the Beatitudes seriously because they are the doctrines of Christ.

In this study, we trust the Lord to open our eyes to the beatitudes as the virtues of the blessed Christian.

STUDY POINTS

1.
 - a. What does it mean to be blessed? [Acts 3:26; Ps. 133:3b; Ps. 1:1-3].
 - b. [v. 3]. The general opinion is “Blessed are the rich”, but Jesus says otherwise [Luke 6:24]. What does it mean to be poor in spirit and why does Jesus consider this as blessedness? [Luke 18: 9-14; Rev. 3:17; Matt 18: 3-4; Luke 1:53; James 2:5].
 - c. [v. 4]. The world says “Blessed are the merry”, Christ says the opposite. What does it mean to mourn in this context? [Zech 12:10; II Cor. 7: 9-10; Ezek. 9: 4; Luke 19: 41-42].
2.
 - a. [v. 5]. The world says “The domineering shall inherit the earth”; Christ says otherwise. What understanding do the following scriptures give us concerning meekness? [Num. 12: 2-7; Matt. 11: 29; Titus 3:2; James 1:21, 3:13; Ps. 25:9].
 - b. [v. 6]. From the following scriptures, discuss “hunger and thirst after righteousness” in our daily longing for Jesus and His kingdom and the assurance of being satisfied with Him [Ps. 42: 1-3,8; 63:1-5; 73:25-26; Is. 26:9]; [Ps. 17:15; 107:9; Rev. 22:17].
3.
 - a. [v. 7]. We are dealt with according to how we deal with others [Luke 6:35-38; James 2: 12-13; Prov. 21:13; Ps. 41:1]. In what ways then does the Lord require us to show mercy?
 - b. [v. 8]. From the following scriptures, discuss purity of heart and its challenges to Christians [Prov. 4:23; Phil. 4:8; Ps. 24: 3-4; Matt. 23: 25-28; Ps. 139: 23-24; Mark 7: 14-22; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14]. What does it mean to see the Lord? [Ps 17: 15; II Cor. 3:18; I John 3:2-3].
4.
 - a. [v. 9]. From the following scriptures, discuss the practical ways in which the Christian can make peace [Rom. 5:1; Col.3:15]; [Ps. 12: 17-19; Heb. 12:14-15; II Tim. 2:23-24; James 3: 17-18].
 - b. [vv. 10-12]. Why should the Christian rejoice upon persecution for the sake of righteousness? [John 15: 320-21; I Peter 4: 12-16; Acts 5:41; II Tim. 3:12].

CONCLUSION

The beatitudes are the blessed virtues of the Christian and the basic doctrines upon which the Christian life is founded. *If you know these things, blessed [holy and happy] are you if you do them.* (Jn. 13:17).

STUDY 15: THE GOSPEL COMMISSION

TEXTS: Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Judges 5:15-24

MEMORY VERSE: “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*” (Matt. 24:14)

INTRODUCTION

We now come to the very heart beat of Jesus, which is the work He has given us to do. The life and ministry of a disciple of Jesus is vitally connected to the Gospel Commission [Mark 3:13-15; Matt. 28:18-20]. Paul says “...*a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me*”. So also, through Christ, we have received grace and apostleship to preach and teach Jesus among all nations for obedience to the faith. [Rom. 1:5, 16:25-26].

The purpose of this study is to stir us up to practical obedience to this gospel command of Jesus.

STUDY POINTS

1. a. “*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached*”.
 - What is this gospel? [Col. 1:28; Rom. 1:16-18; Luke 24:46-47].
 - Who are the ones to preach *this gospel*? [Mark 3:14-15; Rom. 10:13-15; Acts 13:2-3; Luke 24:48-49; Isa. 6:1-8; 1Jn. 1:1-2].
- b. “...all nations...”

What does this mean to you about God’s scope of His work and how does it enlarge your heart as you seek to live for Jesus? [Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:5; Rev. 7:9].
2. Are we in any danger if we fail to preach the gospel to the unsaved souls? [Esther 4:13-14; Ezek. 3:17-21; Acts 20:26-27; 1Cor. 9:16].
3. Discuss the important principles revealed in 1Cor. 9:15-27 and their practical applications.
4. In connection to the call to preach the gospel, deeply observe the responses and attitudes of the people mentioned in Judges 5:15-24. What then should be your own attitude and response to the Gospel Commission? See also Mark 8:35; Acts 15:26, 20:24.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. The gospel is the good news of Jesus, and it is *the power of God to save those who believe in Him*. This gospel is the one and only hope of the unsaved souls.

2. Your obedience to Jesus' command starts where you are right now, but it does not end there. Pray and think also about all nations and surrender yourself to Jesus to train and send you to wherever He wills.
3. Let nothing of the affairs of this life hinder you from responding to the call of Jesus, but be in the number of those who will jeopardize and hazard their lives for the sake of Jesus and the gospel.
4. *"...and who knows whether you have come to the [Kingdom of God] for such a time as this"* when the Lord is saying *"whom shall I send, and who will go for us"?*

STUDY 16: CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

TEXTS: Matt. 5:10-12; 1Pet. 4:12-16

MEMORY VERSE: *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution"*
[2Tim. 3:12]

INTRODUCTION

Christ Himself suffered persecution as many efforts were made to silence Him by force (Luke 4:29) and cunning counsel (Matt 22:15). His arrest, trials, and crucifixion are supreme instances of persecution. Christ also forewarned His disciples that they would suffer persecution as He did (John 15:20).

What is *Christian* Persecution? Why is the Christian persecuted? What does it accomplish? How should we respond to it? These are the blessed truths we trust the Holy Spirit to reveal to us in this study and beyond. May we be blessed as we study, in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. From our text, and with practical examples, discuss Christian Persecution: what it is and what it is not.
2. *The Christian* is appointed to suffer persecution in this world [See 1Thess. 3:3-4; 2Tim. 3:12; Mark 10:29-30; Phil 1:29]. Why is this so [John 15:18-20, 17:14; Matt. 10:16; 1John 3:13]?
3. How does persecution accomplish the purpose of God in us and through us? [1Pet. 4:1-2; Phil. 3:10; Acts 8:1,4; 2Cor. 4:17; 1Pet. 1:7]
4. How then should the Christian see and respond to persecution [1Pet. 2:21-23; {Matt. 5:12; 1Pet. 4:12-14; Acts 5:41}; {Rom. 12:14; Matt. 5:44; Acts 7:59-60}; {1Thess. 1:4; 2Tim. 3:11}; Matt. 10:23]

CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. Persecution in one form or the other is inevitable for the Christian because he does not *belong* to this world any longer. God uses this to accomplish His Own glorious purpose of conforming us to His Son and to spread the gospel abroad
2. In living for Jesus, you must never incite or invite undue suffering for yourself, as a result of wrong doing. However, you must be willing to suffer for the sake of Jesus, seeing it is a great privilege to be counted worthy of such honour.
3. Our response to persecution must be like that of Jesus and the Early Christians.
4. We need to comfort and encourage one another in order to stand firm in the face of persecution.

STUDY 17: LOVE-THE FULLNESS OF GOD

TEXTS: Matt. 22:37-40; 1John 4:7-21; 1Cor. 13:1-13

MEMORY VERSE: *“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God”* [Eph. 3:19]

INTRODUCTION

Everything about the love of God the Father is seen in the Person of Jesus Christ, *“for in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily”* (Col. 2:9). The Body of Christ on earth can thus partake of this fullness of God, in an ever-increasing measure as we *know and experience* the love of God and as we demonstrate it to others.

Through this study, we pray that we shall be enabled to *“know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that [we] might be filled with all the fullness of God”*. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. What does it mean to *“**KNOW** the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge”*? [1Jn. 3:16; 4:7-10,16].
2. *“By **THIS** shall all men know that you are my disciples...”* [John 13:34-35]. Discuss *love as the hallmark of the New Covenant in Christ*. [1John 4:20-21; Eph. 5:1-2; 1Pet. 4:8,10; Prov. 10:12; Rom. 12:9-10; 1Pet. 1:22].
3. Discuss how we are to manifest love toward:
 - (a) **God** [Deut 6:5, 30:6,20; John 14:15,21; Ps. 119:47]; and
 - (b) **Others** [1Cor. 13:4-8; Matt. 5:43-48; 22:39; Rom. 13: 8-10].
4. What insights do the following scriptures give us concerning *“all the fullness of God”*? [Jn. 1:16; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:17-19]
5. Why then is it necessary for us to be filled with all the fullness of God and how can we utilize God’s fullness in daily living? [Eph. 5:18-20; Eph. 6:10-11,13]

CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. God is love and those who are born of God are born of love. Therefore love is the principal characteristic of the Christian.

2. The love that a believer should have is *“love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience and of faith unfeigned”* [1Tim. 1:5]

STUDY 18: SPIRITUAL WARFARE

TEXTS: Eph. 6:10-18; 2Cor. 10:3-6

MEMORY VERSE: *“Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”* Eph. 6:10.

INTRODUCTION

There is the race to run, the way to walk and the battle to fight. These describe the Christian life. The Christian must never be ignorant of the fact that he is in the midst of battle against unseen powers of darkness, whose aim is to steal, to kill and to destroy.

This study seeks to open our eyes to the provisions of grace and how to appropriate them in order to live a victorious Christian life.

STUDY POINTS

1. From the following scriptures, what do you understand by *spiritual warfare* and what is its purpose? Deut 2:24; Matt. 12:28-29; Ps. 144:1; 1Cor. 9:26; 2Cor. 10:3-4; 1Tim. 6:12; 2Tim. 2:3-4
2. The Christian is involved in a spiritual warfare against:
 - a. The Flesh [Rom.7:18,23; 1Pet.2:11; Gal.5:17].
 - b. The world [1John 4:4, 5:4-5; Rom. 12:2].
 - c. Satan and his host [Eph. 6:12; 1Pet. 5:8-9; Rev.12:17].
3. From our texts, find out and discuss God’s provisions for our victory and how we can appropriate them in our daily life. See also [Rom.8:13; Rom.13:12-14; Gal 5:16,24]; [Rev.12:11; Matt.16:18-19; Luke 10:18-20].

CONCLUSION

The Christian is involved in a spiritual warfare that he wages by the power of the Holy Spirit against the passions and desires of the flesh, against the world and its ungodly system, and against Satan and his host.

In truth, the warfare has been accomplished, Satan has fallen [Luke 10:18], the Lion of the tribe of Judah has prevailed [Rev.5:5] and has won the victory for us. It is in this confidence that we must therefore *“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might”* and *“put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provisions for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof”* by putting on His whole armour to stand against the wiles of the devil, and having done all, to stand. Jesus says *“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in My, even as I also overcame...”* [Rev. 3:21]. Amen.

STUDY 19: OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS AND BESETTING SINS

TEXTS: Gen. 3:1-6; Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 12:1-2

MEMORY VERSE: *“And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil”* [Matt 6:13]

INTRODUCTION

Temptation is the stimulation of the desire or craving for something which is sinful or against the will of God. Irrespective of position, age or anointing, we are bound to be faced with temptations throughout life. Jesus was tempted, even to the point of His last breath (Matt. 4:3, 26:39). The same will be true for us. However, temptation to sin should not be confused with tests and trials that God brings our way in order to strengthen our faith and perfect our character but never with the intent of leading us to sin (See Gen. 22:1; James 1:2-3,12).

God has made adequate provisions for the Christian to overcome all temptations and besetting sins. We therefore trust the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to the deceptive strategies of the tempter, and how we can live victoriously.

STUDY POINTS

1. Looking deeply into Gen. 3:1-6 and Matt. 4:1-11. Find out and discuss the subtle strategies that the devil use to tempt God's chosen ones. [Gen. 3:1,4-6]; [Matt. 4:3,6,8-9]. How then is a man tempted? [James 1:13-16].
2. From the table below, discuss some areas in which Satan tempts us today and God's way out [1Jn. 2:16].

| Areas of Temptation | The Way Out |
|---|---|
| Food [Gen. 25:29-33, Matt. 4:3] | Matt. 4:4; Jer. 35:5-6; Dan. 1:8 |
| Riches [Jos. 7:21; Gen. 13:10-13; 1Tim. 6:9-10] | 1Tim 6:5-8 |
| Sexual immorality [Gen. 39:7; Judg. 16:1,4; 1King 11:1,4, Judges 16:6, Prov. 7:21-27] | Gen 39:8-12; Prov. 6:23-28, 7:4-5; 1Cor. 6:18-20; |
| Vainglory [Matt. 4:8-9; Gen. 3:5-6] | Matt. 4:10; 1Jn. 2:15 |
| Power [Matt. 4:3,5-6] | Matt. 4:4,7; James 4:7 |

3. (a) From Heb. 12:1-2, what do you understand by **“weights”** and **“besetting sins”**?
(b) How can a man, by the grace of God, be made free from these?
 - Word of God [Ps. 119:9,11];
 - Watch and pray [Luke 22:40,46; 1Pet 5:8,9];
 - Take heed [1Cor. 10:12-13; 2Pet. 3:17];
 - Confession [Prov. 28:13; James 5:16];
 - Grace and truth [Rom. 5:17; Titus 2:11-12; John 8:32];
 - Help from Jesus [Rom 13:14; Heb. 2:18, 4:15-16].

CONCLUSION

It is worthwhile to conclude this study with the words of a hymn: “Christian, seek not yet repose / Hear thy guardian angel say / Thou art in the midst of foes / Watch and pray.” As a soldier, you must not seek repose. There is no moment of “relaxation”. The Christian must always be fervent. Whatever be the posture of the body, the soul and spirit of the Christian must always be tuned to heaven. Watchfulness, prayerfulness and total dependence on the grace of God, are keys to overcoming temptations and besetting sins. The tempter never gives up. He may leave for a while, only to come again at an opportune hour. To him that overcomes, a crown of life shall be given. Amen.

STUDY 20: THE BLESSED HOPE

TEXTS: 1John 3:1-3, Titus 2:11-15

MEMORY VERSE: “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure*” [1John 3:2-3]

INTRODUCTION

The Christian hope is the virtuous desire for, and earnest expectation of what God has promised. It is a certain hope because it is anchored on faith - the assurance that what we hope for will happen. The Bible also made it clear that “...*hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*” (Rom. 8:24).

Our concern in this study is not just any hope but “*the blessed hope*”. What exactly does it mean? Why should we have this hope? What is it set to accomplish in us? These and many more are what we trust God to unveil to us. Be blessed in Jesus’ name. Amen.

STUDY POINTS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss the insights the Lord is giving us concerning what the *blessed hope* is: 1Tim. 1:1; Col. 1:27; Tit. 2:13 1Pet. 1:9; Rom. 8:17-25; 1Cor. 15:19
2. In view of our hope in Christ, how should we purify ourselves (1Jn. 3:3)? [2Cor. 7:1; 1Jn. 1:7; Jn. 15:3; Prov. 4:20-23; Ps. 19:12-14, 139:23-24].
3. Why should we have *this hope* and what is it set to accomplish in us? [2Tim. 4:8; Heb. 9:28; Col. 1:27, Rom. 5:2; Eph. 1:18; 2 Cor. 5:4].

CONCLUSION

He that has *this hope* and looks for *that blessed hope* “*purifieth himself, even as He is pure*” but we should bear in mind that our purification is done by our cooperation with the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, Who works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

We must never lose sight of this hope, for “*unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation*”. Amen.

HYMNS

1. AND CAN IT BE

1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's lood?
Died He for me who caused His pain

For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me?
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me?

2. 'Tis mystery all the Immortal dies
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine
'Tis mercy all let earth adore
Let angel minds inquire no more
'Tis mercy all let earth adore
Let angel minds inquire no more

3. He left His Father's throne above
So free, so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself of all but love
And bled for Adam's helpless race
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God, it found out me
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God, it found out me

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's light
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off, my heart was free
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee
My chains fell off, my heart was free
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee

5. No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him, my living head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own

2. MORE ABOUT JESUS

1. More about Jesus would I know
More of His grace to other show
More of His saving fullness see
More of His love who died for me

More, more about Jesus

More, more about Jesus

More of His saving fullness see

More of His love who died for me

2. More about Jesus let me learn

More of His holy will discern
Spirit of God my teacher be
Showing the things of Christ to me

3. More about Jesus, in His word
Holding communion with my Lord
Hearing His voice in every line,
Making each faithful saying mine
4. More about Jesus on His throne
Riches in glory all His own
More of His kingdom's sure increase
More of His coming- Prince of Peace
Amen

3. WHEN WE WALK WITH THE LORD

- 1 **When we walk with the Lord,**
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
*Trust and obey, for there is no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*
- 2 Not a shadow can rise'
Not a cloud in the skies
But His smile quickly drives it away
Not a doubt nor a fear,
Not a sigh nor a tear
Can abide while we trust and obey
- 3 Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share
But our toils he does richly repay;
Not a grief nor a loss,
Not a frown nor a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.
- 4 But we never can prove
The delights of his love
Until all on the altar we lay
For the favour He shows
And the joy He bestows,

4. TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY

1. Take time to be holy
Speak oft with thy Lord
Abide in Him always

And feed on His Word
Make friend of God's children
Help those who are weak
Forgetting in nothing
His blessing to seek.

2. Take time to be holy
The world rushes on
Spend much time in secret
With Jesus alone
By looking to Jesus
Like Him thou shalt be
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see

3. Take time to be holy
Let Him be thy Guide
And run not before Him
Whatever betide
In joy or in sorrow
Still follow thy Lord
And looking to Jesus
Still trust in His Word

4. Take time to be holy
Be calm in thy soul
Each thought and each temper
Beneath His control
Thus led by His Spirit
To fountains of love
Thou soon shall be fitted
For service above. Amen.

5. TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

1. Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord to Thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
2. Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee
3. Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee
4. Take my silver and my gold

Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose

5. Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart it is Thine own
It shall be Thy royal throne
6. Take my Love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee. Amen.

6. FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

1. Faith of our fathers! Living still
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword
O how our hearts beats high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our father, holy faith!
We will be true to Thee till death.
2. Faith of our fathers! We will strive
To win all nations unto Thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then be truly free.
3. Faith of our fathers! We will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife;
And preach you, too, as love knows how
By kind words and virtuous life. Amen

7. AS I JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAND

1. As I journey thro' the land,
Singing; as I go,
Pointing souls to Calvary – to the crimson
flow,
Many arrows pierce my soul from without
within;
But in Lord leads me on, thro'
Him I must win.
*Oh, I want to see Him, look upon His
face,
There to sing forever of His Saving
grace;
On the streets of Glory let, lift my
voice
Cares all past, home at last, ever
rejoice.*

2. When in service for my Lord, dark may be the night,
But I'll cling more close to Him,
He will give me light;
Satan's snares may vex my soul,
Turn my thoughts aside;
But my Lord goes ahead, leads what'er betides;
3. When in valleys low I look t'ward the mountain height,
And behold my Savior there,
Leading in the fight,
With a tender hand outstretched t'ward the valley low
Guiding me, I can see, as I onward go.
4. When before me billows rise from the mighty deep,
Then my Lord directs my barque;
He doth safely keep,
And He leads me gently on
Through this world below,
He's a real Friend to me, oh,
I loved Him so.

8. JESUS MY LORD TO THEE I CRY

1. Jesus my Lord, to Thee I cry
Unless Thou help me, I must die
Oh bring Thy free salvation nigh
And take me as I am
And take me as I am
And take me as I am
My only plea Christ died for me
Oh take me as I am
2. Helpless I am, and full of guilt
But yet for me my blood was split
And Thou canst make me what Thou wilt
And take me as I am
3. No preparation can I make
My best resolve I only break
Yet save me for Thine own name sake
And take me as I am
4. Behold me, Savior at Thy feet
Deal with me as Thou seest meet
Take work begin, Thy work complete
But take me as I am

9. YIELD NOT TO TEMPTATION

- 1 Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin
Each victory will help you, some other to win
Fight manfully onward, dark passion subdue
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through
Ask the saviour to help you
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you
He is willing to help you, He'll carry you through.
- 2 Shun evil companion, bad language disdain
God's Name hold in reverence, nor take it in vain
Be thoughtful and earnest, kind-hearted and true
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.
- 3 To him that overcometh, God giveth a crown
Through faith we shall conquer tho'often cast down
He who is our saviour our strength will renew
Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

10. STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Ye soldiers of the Cross
Lift up His royal banner
It must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory
His army He shall lead
Till every foe is vanquished
And Christ is Lord, indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus
The trumpet call obey
Forth to the mighty conflict
In this His glorious day.
Ye that are men, now serve Him
Against unnumbered foes
Let courage rise with danger
And strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus
Stand in His strength alone
The arm of flesh will fail you
Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armour
Each piece put on with prayer
Where duty calls or danger
Be never wanting there
- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
The strife will not be long,
This day the noise of battle
The next the victor's song.
To him that overcometh,

A crown of life shall be,
He with the King of Glory
Shall reign eternally. Amen.

11. COME TAKE YOUR THRONE

1. I have prepared my heart for you
O Lord come take your throne (x2)
Nothing must come within my soul
Nothing must break into my thoughts
No one must rise to take your place
O Lord come take your throne.
2. I have reserved my lifetime for you
O Lord come take control (x2)
My life must serve your purpose Lord
Living for you and dying to self
My all I give your will to serve
O Lord come take your own.
3. I have released my whole being to you
O Lord come take your own (x2)
My heart, my soul, and body Lord
Once and for all and not bit by bit
I lay them all on the altar for you
O Lord come take your own.
4. I have referred my life's end to you
Dear Lord then take me home (x2)
To see thy face is all I ask
My labour here must not be in vain
my hope, my joy is to reign with you
O Lord, may I make it home.

12. IF I HAVE NOT FORSAKEN ALL

1. If I have not forsaken all
In answer to Thy loving call;
If I've kept something back from Thee,
Lord, give me light, that I might see.
*Lord, help me judge myself each day,
To walk this new and living way
I seek Thy grace with all my heart,
To be made pure, just as Thou art.*
2. If anything upon this earth
Attracts me with its sense of worth;
If money has a hold on me,
Lord, give me light, that I might see.
3. If all my life revolves round me
And thoughts of my own family;
If I am living selfishly,
Lord, give me light, that I might see.
4. Is there some good I should have done?
Is there some soul I should have won?
Have I hurt someone thoughtlessly?
Lord, give me light, that I might see.

5. If someone's failure has not wrought
Concern and care within my heart;
If I've judged others inwardly,
Lord, give me light, that I might see.

6. If I have cared for men's applause
Or sought my own and shunned the cross;
If I have feared man's mockery,
Lord give me light, that I might see.

7. If I've not sought Thy pow'r in prayer
Because of earthly toils and care;
If I'm not longing after Thee,
Lord give me light, that I might see.

13. RESCUE THE PERISHING

1. Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;
Weep o'er the erring one, lift up the fallen,
Tell them of Jesus, the mighty to save.

*Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,
Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.*

2. Though they are slighting Him, still He is
waiting,
Waiting the penitent child to receive;
Plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently;
He will forgive if they only believe.

3. Down in the human heart, crushed by the
tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;
Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more.

4. Rescue the perishing, duty demands it;
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;
Back to the narrow way patiently win them;
Tell the poor wand'rers a Savior has died.

14. JESUS ONLY IS OUR MESSAGE

1. Jesus only is our Message
Jesus all our Theme shall be
We will lift up Jesus ever
Jesus only will we see
*Jesus only, Jesus ever
Jesus all, in all we sing
Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer
Baptizer, and Coming King.*
2. Jesus only is our Savior

All our guilt He bore away
All our righteousness He gives us
All our strength from day to day.

3. Jesus is our Sanctifier
Cleansing us from self and sin
And with all His Spirit's fullness
Filling all our hearts within.
4. Jesus only is our Healer
All our sicknesses He bare
And His risen life and fullness

All His members still may share

5. Jesus only is our Power
His the gift of Pentecost
Jesus breathe Thy Power upon us
Fill us with the Holy Ghost.
6. And for Jesus we are waiting
Listening for the trumpet sound
But 'twill be us and Jesus ever
Living ever with our God